

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 IO-03 PM-03 DODE-00 EUR-10

SPC-01 DRC-01 /059 W

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R 291445Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7444

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1105

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, OAU, PU

SUBJECT: IS OAU PLANNING MILITARY OPERATION IN
GUINEA-BISSAU?

REFS: A) CONAKRY 71 (NOTAL); B) ADDIS 13429 (NOTAL);
C) LAGOS 874 OF 1/31/73 (NOTAL)

1. NORMALLY COMMUNICATIVE SOURCES WITHIN OAU, IEG AND AFRICAN
DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAVE BEEN UNUSUALLY TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT DECI-
SIONS TAKEN IN CONAKRY AT RECENT MEETING OF OAU DEFENSE COMMIS-
SION. WE HAVE LEARNED, HOWEVER, FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT
MEETING DECIDED TO RECOMMEND (1) FUND DRIVE FOR BENEFIT OF PAIGC.

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FUND WOULD FINANCE OPERATIONS OF "GOVERNMENT GUINEA-BISSAU"

(E.G., FONMIN'S TRAVELS, ETC.) AS WELL AS PAIGC'S FUEL AND SPARE

PARTS NEEDS. AN ESTIMATED \$1.2 MILLION (REFTEL B) ARE REQUESTED.

(2) APPOINTMENT OF MILITARY STAFF, PROBABLY COLONEL AND TWO MAJORS, TO OAU SECRETARIAT. THESE AND OTHER "ROUTINE" RESOLUTIONS WILL BE PRESENTED TO NEXT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (NOW SCHEDULED FOR ADDIS O/A FEB. 27).

2. WHILE WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO FIRM EVIDENCE YET, THERE ARE FOLLOWING INDICATIONS THAT CONAKRY MEETING COULD HAVE DECIDED TO MOUNT SOME SORT OF MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST PORTUGUESE IN GUINEA-BISSAU. WE HAVE HEARD FROM TWO PARTICIPANTS AT MEETING THAT MAJOR DECISIONS TAKEN RE GUINEA-BISSAU ARE BEING HELD VERY CLOSELY BY NATIONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND WILL NOT RPT NOT BE RELEASED TO OAU AS WHOLE OR SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THERE HAVE BEEN GUARDED HINTS THAT GUINEA'S SEKOU TOURE MADE "BIG DECISION" DURING MEETING THAT DELIGHTED THOSE PRIVY TO IT; THAT BOTH NIGERIA'S GOWON AND LIBERIA'S TOLBERT ARE AMONG THOSE INVOLVED; AND THAT A SECRET PAIGC DELEGATION TO WEST AFRICAN CAPITALS INCLUDING ACCRA WILL SOON DISCUSS MILITARY MATTERS FURTHER WITH NATIONS CONCERNED. INSIDERS HAVE BEEN HEARD TO MAKE VEILED REFERENCES TO INDIA'S LIBERATION OF GOA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. WE ALSO HAVE HEARD REPORTS SUGGESTING A LOGISTICAL BUILDUP MAY ALREADY BE UNDERWAY IN CONAKRY. FROM ABOVE AND OTHER INDIRECT SUGGESTIONS, WE VERY TENTATIVELY CONCLUDE THAT A MILITARY STRIKE UNDER OAU AEGIS, MOST LIKELY FROM GUINEA AND PERHAPS INCLUDING NIGERIAN AND OTHER AFRICAN PARTICIPATION, COULD REPEAT COULD BE IN PLANNING STAGES. IF SO, VARIOUS HINTS SUGGEST EXPECTATION IT MAY BE MOUNTED PRIOR TO NEXT UNGA.

3. EMBASSY NOT IN POSITION TO COMMENT ON MILITARY FEASIBILITY OF ANY SUCH OPERATION (REFTEL C). FROM ADDIS PERSPECTIVE, HOWEVER, IT COULD MAKE A DEGREE OF POLITICAL SENSE. PARTICULARLY IF SUCCESSFUL, SUCH AN OPERATION LIKELY STRENGTHEN UNITY OF OAU, VIS-A-VIS NATO/OECD/EEC WOULD, REINFORCE BLACK AFRICAN COHESION VIS-A-VIS ARABS, AND CROWN GOWON'S AND NIGERIA'S LEADERSHIP OF AFRICA. FOR THESE POLITICAL REASONS ALONE, WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT DISCOUNT THIS POSSIBILITY.

4. EMBASSY HAS ALSO HEARD REPORTS OF AN INCREASING SOVIET
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MILITARY QPRESENCE IN GUINEA. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY AVAILABLE ESTIMATE OF SCOPE AND PRESUMED MISSION OF SOVIET PRESENCE.
ADAIR

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